

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

February 29, 2000

FROM: RUDY LOPEZ, Director
Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)

SUBJECT: MENTAL HEALTH BILLING RATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2000

RECOMMENDATION: Approve and file Department of Behavioral Health proposed billing rates, effective March 1, 2000, as indicated:

Type of Service		Existing Billing Rate	FY99/00 SMA Rate	DBH Proposed Billing Rate
Habilitative – Full Day	Third Party	\$98.28		
	Medi-Cal	\$103.85	\$103.85	\$103.85
Habilitative – Half Day	Third Party	\$68.00		
	Medi-Cal	\$66.54	\$66.54	\$66.54
Case Management Outpatient Services	Third Party	\$1.70		
	Medi-Cal	\$1.30	\$1.60	\$1.45
MH Services - Collateral	Third Party	\$1.83		
	Medi-Cal	\$1.70	\$2.05	\$1.86
MH Services - Assessment	Third Party	\$1.83		
	Medi-Cal	\$1.70	\$2.05	\$1.86
MH Services - Evaluation	Third Party	\$1.83		
	Medi-Cal	\$1.70	\$2.05	\$1.86
MH Services - Individual	Third Party	\$1.83		
	Medi-Cal	\$1.70	\$2.05	\$1.86
MH Services - Group	Third Party	\$1.83		
	Medi-Cal	\$1.70	\$2.05	\$1.86
Crisis Outpatient Services	Third Party	\$2.87		
	Medi-Cal	\$2.50	\$3.08	\$2.79
Medications	Third Party	\$3.67		
	Medi-Cal	\$3.10	\$3.82	\$3.46

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: As needed, the Department of Behavioral Health adjusts rates for services based upon actual direct and indirect costs per unit of service incurred during the fiscal year. The Schedule of Maximum Allowable (SMA) rates are the maximum the State will reimburse for any particular Medi-Cal eligible service provided. On December 21, 1999, the Board of Supervisors approved the current rates.

In accordance with Section 14170 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the State Department of Mental Health examined DBH's FY 94-95 Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal Cost report and Date Collection. In their subsequent report on January 24, 2000, DMH recommended that DBH establish one set of billing rates. With this Board Agenda Item, DBH is complying with HCFA, Pub. 15-1, Sections 2204 and 2102.1, and establishing just one set of billing rates (charges) for mental health services. These rates should be uniformly applied to all patients.

Page 1 of 2 pages

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MENTAL HEALTH BILLING RATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2000
FEBRUARY 29, 2000
Page 2

The singular billing rate is established per Short/Doyle Medi-Cal requirements and is based upon actual direct treatment service excluding administrative and utilization review costs, which are claimed separately to Medi-Cal. The State's annual year-end Short/Doyle Medi-Cal cost report settlement process is based upon the lower of actual costs or charges (billing rates) or SMA.

By using the SMA rate or actual rate, whichever is lower, the County will maximize the Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for support of services. The State reimburses DBH utilizing the billing rate or the SMA rate, whichever is higher. Third party payors pay the full billing rate.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This billing rate change has been reviewed and approved as to form by Deputy County Counsel Charles J. Larkin.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Medi-Cal services are reimbursed by the State based on the lower of costs or charges. The rates established in this transmittal are based upon actual costs to date including direct and indirect costs. These rates are designed to insure adequate reimbursement to the Department and have no fiscal impact to the County's general fund.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: Rudy Lopez, Director

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